

### Water Birds Observed at Rock Island, Utah Lake, in 1932

In a recent article on the natural history of the California Gull (*Larus californicus*) based on studies at the Rock Island colony at Utah Lake, Beck (Great Basin Nat., 3, 1942: 91-108) mentions (p. 93) the findings of some previous visitors to the island. These early observations are none too numerous and it has seemed desirable, therefore, to place on record certain data gathered by the writer on a visit to the same site on May 26, 1932. Accompanied by John W. Sugden and A. M. Woodbury the boat was launched at the mouth of the Provo River and a landing was made at an indentation on the north shore of the island. A strong wind was blowing at the time, causing large waves. The wind seemed to be increasing in velocity and being apprehensive about the return trip, our stay on the island was of short duration, which permitted only hurried observations. Even so, the following species were seen or evidence was found of their presence.

*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Gmelin. White Pelican. Over 100 white pelicans were gathered in a flock at the tip of a long sandbar extending shoreward from the south end of the island. They remained there "loafing" throughout the time of our visit. These birds were probably affiliated with one of the Great Salt Lake colonies, for although a pelican colony was once situated at Rock Island (Goodwin, Condor, 6, 1904: 126-129) the island has apparently long been abandoned by pelicans as a nesting site. However, pelicans are fairly common at Utah Lake which is, or used to be, one of the principal foraging areas for the pelicans of Great Salt Lake.

*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus* (Lesson). Double-crested cormorant. Six cormorants were seen in flight past the island. As in the case of the pelicans, cormorants do not nest on Rock Island, but Utah Lake is a foraging ground for the Great Salt Lake birds.

*Branta canadensis canadensis* (Linnaeus). Canada Goose. No birds were seen but two nests were found, both of which had been abandoned as indicated by the putrifying contents of the eggs. One nest had 3 eggs, the other 1 egg.

*Anas cyanoptera cyanoptera* (Vieillot). Cinnamon Teal. An adult was flushed from a nest which contained 12 eggs.

*Charadrius vociferus vociferus* (Linnaeus). Killdeer. Several killdeers were seen scattered about the island and one nest was found with a full complement of 4 eggs.

*Actitis macularia* (Linnaeus). Spotted Sandpiper. Twelve were seen on the island, of which one was collected.

*Crocethia alba* (Pallas). Sanderling. A flock of 50 or so was seen, 4 of which were collected.

*Recurvirostra americana* Gmelin. Avocet. Ten avocets were at the island, but no nests were found.

*Larus californicus* Lawrence. California Gull. An estimated 2000 were on or around the island. Their nesting area was on the north and west sides of the island. The nests had 1 and 2 as well as 3 eggs indicating that the laying period was then in progress. The nests were spaced about 5 feet apart and were sub-

stantial structures as compared with those on the islands of Great Salt Lake where there is less nesting material for the more abundant population.

*Chlidonias nigra surinamensis* (Gmelin). Black Tern. Six individuals were seen but there was no evidence of their nesting.

*Hydroprogne caspia imperator* Coues. Caspian Tern. A colony was located on the northwest part of the island. The number of nests was established as about 50 with adults numbering not more than 100. Most of the nests had 2 or 3 eggs, but one contained 5. Several eggs had been laid outside nests. California gulls nested all around the Caspian Tern colony.

*Sterna forsteri* Nuttall. Forster Tern. Two colonies were found, a relatively small one at the northern point of the island and a second larger one more toward the center of the island. Nests were numerous, but seemingly less so than the old nests of the previous season. The number of eggs in the nests varied from 1 to 3. There were about 500 adults on the island.—William H. Behle, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah. March 15, 1944.

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#### The Plant Clear-eye or See-bright a New Record for Utah

On July 22, 1945, Louise Atkinson and I discovered the Clear-eye or See-bright *Salvia sclarea* growing in Emigration Canyon, Salt Lake County, Utah. This member of the mint family is found in Pennsylvania, and so far as we know has never before been taken in Utah.

We found the first clump at 5025 ft. altitude, 1.6 miles up the canyon from the road junction at its mouth; the second, at 5100 ft., 2.3 miles; the third at 2.7 miles; the fourth at 3.3 miles, altitude 5225; and the fifth and largest at 3.6 miles, altitude 5250 feet. At this last point there were probably a thousand plants on the north hillside, all with their clusters of pinkish white flowers in terminal spikes. The broad, ovate bracts furnish the color.

All of these plants were growing on sunny north slopes on good soil, preferably that recently eroded or graded. We are indebted to Prof. A. O. Garrett for assistance in the final determination of this species.—Claude T. Barnes.